

Evaluation of Proposals to Generate Revenue from Forest Lands

For a private client, ECO evaluated the feasibility of proposals to acquire forest land within a watershed and manage the forest and associated water resources to generate revenue on a long-term basis. ECO modeled forest production scenarios to determine potential revenue from timber harvest, analyzed the feasibility of using forest residues to fuel a biomass electricity generator, evaluated the potential feasibility of constructing a dam to generate hydropower, and worked with the client to complete a GIS analysis to identify lands most suitable for acquisition.

Economic Benefits of Wyoming's Roadless Areas

For a private client, ECO analyzed the economic benefits of roadless areas to Wyoming's economy. ECO described the mechanisms through which the ecosystem goods and services provided by roadless areas can drive local economic growth, and contribute to a high quality of life in Wyoming.

Forested Ecosystems and Regional Economies

For the National Science Foundation, ECO conducted a three-year study to describe, explain and communicate the relationships between forested ecosystems and regional economies. ECO developed a framework to assess and tools to describe the impacts of forests on the local economies. The study included case studies of Oregon, Alaska, New Mexico, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Wisconsin.

Economic Benefits of Forest Protection, Recreation, and Restoration

For the Sierra Club, ECO described the potential economic impacts of reduced logging on national forests, as well as the non-timber benefits the nation enjoys from these forests. ECO found that the value of the non-timber benefits produced by the national forests, such as clean water, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat, is much greater than the value of extractive activities, such as logging and mining. ECO also described the potential economic impacts of implementing a restoration program for public lands.

Salmon, Timber, and the Economy

For a private client, ECO evaluated the potential economic consequences of efforts to adjust Oregon forest practices to provide a high probability of protecting and restoring aquatic habitat on forestlands important for salmonids.

Critique of the FSEIS on Management of Old-Growth Habitat

For a private client, ECO evaluated the economic components of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement produced by the Forest Service, regarding the value of old-growth forests associated with spotted owls. ECO's critique included calculations illustrating the potential impact on employment of forest-management alternatives that would jeopardize the region's quality of life.

Baselines for Forest Policy in the Pacific Northwest

For the Wilderness Society, ECO described timber-harvest levels that would occur on federal lands if federal forest-management policies and court injunctions remained unchanged. ECO described how harvest levels might differ from the baseline under several proposed alternative management plans that could lead to the lifting of the injunctions. ECO also estimated the changes in jobs and income associated with the differences in harvest levels.

Economic Impacts of Forest Management Regulations

For the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, ECO analyzed the economic effects of proposed changes in existing forest-practices rules. ECO estimated market and nonmarket values related to the effects of proposed rule changes on timber, water, soils, understory vegetation, fisheries, and wildlife.

Economic Costs of Salvage Logging

For a private client, ECO described the economic costs that might materialize if logging occurred on natural forest lands that had experienced wildfire. ECO concluded that the Forest Service's FEIS was not economically sound and could not be used as the basis for decision-making.

Pacific Northwest's Response to Logging Reductions

For private clients, ECO described the economy's response in the Pacific Northwest to dramatic reductions in logging that occurred during the 1980s and 1990s. ECO explained why the economy had grown despite predictions that timber-harvest reductions would cause it to collapse. ECO also compared recent logging reductions in the Pacific Northwest to the projected reductions in British Columbia, and described the extent to which the economy's future response in British Columbia to logging reductions should resemble what occurred in the Pacific Northwest.

Recommendations for Managing Forest Resources

For the Southeast Forest Project, ECO developed recommendations for managing forest resources on 200 million acres in 13 southern states. ECO also critiqued the economic component of a state and federal assessment of the forest resources.

Environmental Impact Statement Review for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project

For a private client, ECO reviewed the economic components of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project (DEIS for ICBEMP). ECO summarized the economic background against which the DEIS was prepared and examined the Agencies' (U.S. Forest Service and BLM) explanation of their recommended strategy (the preferred alternative) for managing the lands they administered in the Columbia Basin.

Impact Analysis of Forest Management Policy

For a private client, ECO estimated local economic conditions with and without a change in forest management policy that would protect most or all of the remaining old-growth forest on federal lands. ECO examined timbersheds in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Economic Impacts of Timber Industry

For a private client, ECO conducted a study of the history and the viability of the timber industry in Washington State in response to timber regulations and changing market conditions.

Research Agenda for the U.S. Forest Service

For the U.S. Forest Service, ECO analyzed the agency's land-management program and outlined corrective actions. These actions include aligning forest-management policies with the availability of goods and services; estimating the value of these goods and services, that the public derives from the forests, especially environmental services; and improving the ability of the Forest Service to manage the resolution over land-use disputes.

Economic Analysis of Roadless Areas

For the Wilderness Society, ECO described the potential economic effects of the Roadless Initiative in Idaho, which would prevent commercial logging on roadless areas in national forests. ECO analyzed the costs and benefits of the timber industry on Idaho's economy and how the removal of these lands from potential timber production would impact the industry and local economy. ECO also looked at the economic values of goods and services that flow from a standing forest.

Aesthetic Forestry Principles

For Washington Forest Law center, ECO evaluated the need for improved voluntary measures and/or new regulations regarding the application of aesthetic forestry principles and techniques on state and private lands in Washington. ECO looked at economic issues, associated with managing the aesthetics characteristics of forested landscapes.

Methods for Full-Cost Accounting in Forest Management

For the Washington Environmental Council, ECO outlined the central concepts of full-cost accounting. The study included a discussion of past decisions that may have been modified, had their costs been fully taken into account. ECO also described how forest-management approaches that emphasize sustainability and stewardship can have positive economic consequences.

Economic Analysis of Habitat Conservation Plan

For a private client, ECO evaluated economic analyses that had been developed to support the implementation of a proposed habitat conservation plan for private and state-owned forest lands.

Social Impacts of Forest Management

For the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, ECO analyzed the social implications of managing the federal Douglas-fir forests on longer rotations. These social effects include aesthetics, value added, tourism, jobs (quantity and type), changes in recreational opportunities, and economic and community sustainability. ECO presented the analysis at a regional workshop on High Quality Forestry Management.

Economic Analysis of Eastside Ecosystem Management Project

For the W. Alton Jones Foundation, ECO worked to ensure that the processes and the products of the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project internalized the externalities of resource-extraction industries (timber, grazing, mining, and hydropower) on federal lands in eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and Idaho.

Impacts of a Lumber-Mill Closure

For the Wilderness Society, ECO analyzed the pending closure of a lumber mill in northeastern Washington. The report found that increased logging on the nearby national forests almost certainly would not increase the mill employment because forces, other than a low log supply, were driving the mill's closure. The study also found that rescinding environmental protections for the Colville National Forest would probably have serious adverse impacts on the local economy in the long run, reducing both the job and income levels locally.

Economic Consequences of Forest Management in the Southern Appalachian Highlands

For the U.S. Forest Service, ECO developed and applied a model for describing the relationship between a forest ecosystem and the adjacent regional economies, assessing the economic consequences of alternative resource-management policies, and supporting efforts to design and implement policies, plans, and activities that enhance the likelihood of long-term ecological sustainability and economic vitality.

Economic Impacts of Salvage Logging

For the Siskiyou Regional Education Project, ECO reviewed the economic elements of the Forest Service's draft environmental impact statement of salvage-logging proposals for the burned areas within the perimeter of the Biscuit Fire in Southern Oregon.

Public Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat

For the Washington Department of Wildlife, ECO calculated the economic impacts and values associated with the public acquisition of private land for use as a wildlife habitat. ECO analyzed economic values, economic impacts, and policy impacts.

Economic Impacts of Reduced Timber Supply

For private clients, ECO analyzed the economic consequences of reduced timber harvest in the Tongass National Forest. The report included an evaluation of the potential impacts on the regional economy, including impacts on the timber industry, tourism, subsistence hunting and fishing, and commercial fishing.

Socioeconomic Contributions of National Forests

For a private client, ECO evaluated the social and economic contributions of national forests in the context of conceptual and analytical tools developed by ECO to frame issues related to timber harvesting. ECO also evaluated the externalized costs of logging on national forests.

Employment Transitions in Oregon's Wood Products Sector

Working with economists from Oregon State University, College of Forestry and the Oregon Employment Department, ECO analyzed the 1998 employment records (earnings, industry, and location) of Oregonians who worked in the state's wood products sector in the early 1990s. The results of the study were published in the *Journal of Forestry* (June 2003).

Wildfire and Poverty

For the Center for Watershed and Community Health, ECO analyzed the impacts of wildfire and fire-related programs on communities in the wildland-urban interface and on low-income residents, in particular.

Economic Strategies for Timber-Dependent Communities

For the Washington Community Development Department, ECO worked with timber-dependent communities (Montesano, Elma, Oakville, Amanda Park-Neilton) to assess their economic outlook and to develop strategies for adjusting to changes in timber harvests.

Economic Assessment of a Proposed Logging Project

For the National Wildlife Federation, ECO evaluated the potential financial costs and/or benefits of a proposed logging project in Alaska's Copper River Delta area. ECO also evaluated non-financial economic costs and recommended alternatives to the proposed project.

Economic Impact of Timber Transfer

For the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, ECO assessed the impact of the proposed transfer of two parcels of timber from management by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to management by the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. ECO evaluated the Washington DNR's appraisal of the land and the assumptions which underlie it. ECO also assessed the impact of the proposed transfer on the local economy and on the common school trust.

Economic Benefits of Reforestation of Agricultural Land

For the Business Council for Sustainable Development, ECO assisted with the evaluation of alternatives for reforestation of marginal agricultural lands in the Lower Mississippi Delta and showed how reforestation can yield substantial economic benefits.

Economic Impacts of Changes in the Timber Industry on the Pacific Northwest

For the Wilderness Society, ECO evaluated the economic effects of changes in the timber industry following the listing of the Northern spotted owl as an endangered species. ECO examined the detrimental effects of the timber industry on the sustainable economies of rural communities.

Proposed Tariff on Lumber imports from British Columbia

For a private client, ECO evaluated and responded to arguments from the U.S. timber industry urging the U.S. Department of Commerce to impose a tariff on lumber and wood products imported from British Columbia.

Fiscal Impacts of Changes in Timber-Sale Contracts

For the Oregon State Land Board, ECO analyzed the fiscal and economic implications of alternative proposals for offering contractual relief to firms holding contracts for state-owned timber. The analysis involved assessing the potential impacts on the Common School Fund of price rollbacks, contractual extensions, and changes in the rate of contractual default.

Economic Impacts of Industrial Clear-Cutting

For the Washington Forest Law Center and its clients, ECO conducted a study of the economic impacts of industrial clear-cutting on large tracts of private land in the Carbon River Valley near Mt. Rainier National Park.

Strategies for Timber-Dependent Communities

For the Oregon Joint Interim Legislative Committee on Forest Products Policy, ECO developed a strategic plan for allocating state resources to assist dislocated workers and timber-dependent communities, and a set of legislative recommendations for implementing the plan. ECO determined whether changes were needed in state programs and recommended improvements in existing programs and general designs for new programs.